



*United States Attorney  
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**WESTCHESTER RESIDENT CONVICTED ON FEDERAL  
MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES TIED TO DRUG CASE**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOSEPHINE TUSANEZA, a Westchester County resident, was convicted yesterday evening in White Plains federal court on money laundering charges in connection with a corrupt bail bond arranged in a Westchester County narcotics case. TUSANEZA was convicted following a one-week jury trial.

The evidence at trial established that in August 1997, Marcos Gonzalez was arrested on state drug charges in Yonkers in connection with the seizure of 74 kilograms of cocaine, and was thereafter held without bail. In March 1998, a Westchester County judge ordered Gonzalez released on a \$250,000 cash or insurance bond. International Fidelity Insurance Company ("IFIC") posted the bond on March 24, 1998, to secure Gonzalez' release. The bail documents indicated that the insurance bond was arranged by Robert Berretta, the owner of Associated Bail

Services ("ABS"), a bail bonding business located in the Bronx, which was an authorized representative of IFIC in its insurance bonding business.

The documents also indicated that TUSANEZA pledged her property at 274 Park Hill Avenue in Yonkers as collateral for the bail bond, which IFIC would have the right to seize in the event that IFIC was required to forfeit the \$250,000 bond it had posted. Marcos Gonzalez ultimately was released on bail after IFIC posted the insurance bond.

The evidence at trial established that in March 1998, Victor Gonzalez, the brother of Marcos Gonzalez and the head of a major cocaine trafficking organization in New York, secretly paid TUSANEZA \$250,000 in cash drug proceeds in exchange for TUSANEZA's agreement to pledge her property for the bail bond to make it appear as if the property was legitimate collateral for the \$250,000 bond posted by IFIC. Victor Gonzalez also delivered a total of \$275,000 in cash drug proceeds to Daniel Gonzalez and Orlando Valle, who were employees of ABS, between February and April of 1998 to secretly secure ABS's obligation to reimburse IFIC if the bond was forfeited.

Court records indicate that in June 1998, Marcos Gonzalez failed to appear as required, and that he is currently a fugitive. As a result of Gonzalez's failure to appear, IFIC was required to forfeit the bond and pay \$250,000 to Westchester County.

TUSANEZA, a resident of Yonkers, New York, faces a

maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment, a fine of at least \$500,000, and forfeiture of her property at 274 Park Hill Avenue. She is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge SIDNEY H. STEIN on May 30, 2003.

Robert Berretta, Daniel Gonzalez and Orlando Valle previously pled guilty to the same money laundering charge. Daniel Gonzalez was sentenced to 52 months' imprisonment. Valle was sentenced to 33 months' imprisonment. Berretta is scheduled to be sentenced on April 18, 2003.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney BART G. VAN DE WEGHE is in charge of the prosecution.